

# Balboa Academy

## 2013-2014 Fact Sheet



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**Balboa Academy** offers an English language, U.S. accredited, college preparatory curriculum to multinational students from preschool through grade 12. Balboa Academy was founded in 1999 in the historic Panama Canal area. The Balboa Academy community is diverse with students and families coming from a wide variety of backgrounds brought together with a common vision: Collaborate to Innovate, Together Succeed. The majority of graduating seniors attend 4 year universities in the United States or Panama. The school is accredited by AdvancED and authorized by the Panamanian Ministry of Education. Academic Calendar: The 2013-2014 school year is comprised of two semesters extending from August 6, 2013 to June 13, 2014. School vacations are four weeks at midyear, December 20, 2013 to January 19, 2014; one week at carnival, March 3-7, 2014; and one week Spring Recess, April 14-18, 2014.

**Organization:** Balboa is governed by a Board of Directors composed of the nine founding educators. The Board of Directors is advised by a Parent Advisory Board. The school is overseen by a Director.

**Curriculum:** Balboa follows a K–12 curriculum that is aligned with United States Common Core State Standards and Advanced Placement (AP). All instruction is delivered in English, and Spanish is taught as a second or native language. The preschool program follows the Creative Curriculum for 3 and 4 year olds in mixed age groupings. The elementary and middle school curriculum is rigorous, and includes research-based programs such as Everyday Math, Making Meaning, Writer's Workshop, and FOSS Science. Eighteen AP courses are offered in all high school subject areas and students who qualify may earn the AP International Diploma. Graduates may earn a diploma from both the U.S. and the Ministry of Education of Panama. Special services are available to help students be successful in an inclusive setting. Assessment: Great attention is given to authentic assessment of student learning. All students participate in a yearly school-wide writing assessment. Grade 2-9 grade students take the MAP test twice yearly. The PSAT is administered to students in the fall, and Balboa is an official SAT test location. Extracurricular: A full range of after-school activities are available for 1<sup>st</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade students including performing arts, fine arts, wellness, fitness, community service, and a comprehensive competitive sports program. The majority of students stay after school to participate in these activities.

**Faculty:** There are 84 faculty members. Balboa values experience, qualifications, and a commitment to ongoing professional development when hiring teachers. Support staff includes counselors, education specialists, IT specialists, a registered nurse, media specialists, and athletic coaches. The student-teacher ratio is approximately 11:1.

**Enrollment:** Current enrollment for school year 2013-2014 is 837, (PK: 86; K-grade 4:257; grades 5-8: 243; and grades 9-12: 251).

**Finances:** The annual tuition rates for 2013-2014 are as follows: PK-\$5844, K-\$7704, grades 1-5-\$9200, and grades 6-12-\$10,172; \*Registration fee for non-sponsored students PK: \$599; K: \$1,024; and grades 1-12: \$1,274, \*The registration fee for sponsored students is an additional \$1,000.00 per student; Infrastructure Fee (per family): \$450; a PTSO Fee (per family): \$20; Application Fee: \$150 grades PK-12; and, a one-time Capital Donation Fee of \$10,000 grades K-12.

*This Fact Sheet is intended to provide general information. Prospective users of the Schools may wish to inquire further of A/OPR/OS or contact the School directly for more specific and up-to-the-minute information regarding curriculum, special programs, and the like. Information and statistics are current as of September 2013 and are provided by the School.*